India's share in world exports in agricultural produce

3631. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is India's share of agricultural produce in world exports;

(b) whether Government have formed any strategy to boost export of agricultural products during the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) India's share of exports of agricultural produce is less than 1% of the world trade of about US $300 billion.

(b) and (c) The main elements of the strategy to step up exports of agricultural products are:—

(i) increase in production and productivity of important items, such as fresh fruits and vegetables, spices cashewnuts, oilseeds, basmati rice, etc.

(ii) improved price competitiveness;

(iii) aggressive marketing in the potential countries through participation in exhibitions, holding of buyer-seller meets and inter-action with importers;

(iv) value addition; and

(v) quality assurance programmes.

Intensiveness of India's Exports

3632. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's exports are still import intensive;

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken by Government to lower the import contents of Indian exports;

(c) whether Government have drawn any concrete programme/policy in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) The import intensity varies from commodity to commodity. While it is high in the case of exports of Gems and Jewellery, the import intensity is marginal or low in the case of export of primary products like agricultural products and mineral products.

(b) to (d) The new EXIM policy 1992-97, *inter alia*, aims to promote efficient and internationally competitive import substitution and self-reliance under a deregulated framework for foreign trade. It also seeks to foster the country's Research and Development (R & D) and Technological capabilities. Under the policy, 'Deemed Exports' have been defined as transactions in which the goods supplied do not leave the country but earn scarce foreign exchange for the country. Benefits such as duty exemption schemes, duty drawback schemes and refund of terminal excise duty have been extended to deemed exports. Besides, the Government have also launched, in association with trade and industry, a major nation-wide campaign on quality and to take other steps to bring Indian products to world standards.

Growing rubber in non-traditional areas

3633. SHRI ASHIS SEN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to grow rubber in non-traditional areas of the country;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken in this direction?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) It is proposed to new plant 20,000 hectares during 8th Plan period in the non-traditional areas. A project for world bank financing has been negotiated. Rubber Board has established field offices at a number of locations to render technical and financial assistance.

Export of Granite Blocks

3634. SHRI J.P. JAVALI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer of Unstarred Question 555 given in the Rajya Sabha on 26th November, 1992 and state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating banning exports unfinished granite blocks and allow only value added items like cut and polished slabs etc; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Failure of MPEDS to promote export of marine products

3635. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the MPEDA has failed in promoting exports of marine products;

(b) whether Government are aware that marine products exporters have formed a cartel to bring down the prices of prawn and shrimps paid to the farmers;

(c) whether Governemnt MPEDA had any plans to intervene in the market to stabilise the prices; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No such thing has come to Government's notice.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

Import of Ginseng

3636. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a plant called Ginseng has been imported in this country;

(b) if so, how and from which countries and what are the species imported; and

(c) how much foreign exchange has been incured during the last three years on this account?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHIEED): (a) and (b) Ginseng plant is not imported. However, white Ginseng Root Powder, Red Ginseng Root Powder, solid extract with varying saporin contents (from 5% - 6% to 100%) and liquid extract are imported from Singapore, China, Korea, Indonesia, Afganistan, Bulgaria, Germany, Morocco, Mexico, Nepal, Pakistan, Itally, Spain and Ireland.

(c) During the years 1990-91 and 1991-92 for which data is available, Ginseng roots for a value of Rs. 61.82 lakhs and Rs. 39.48 lakhs respectively have been imported.

Export of engineering goods

3637. SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the value of Export of Engineering goods during 1986-87 to 1991-92;

(b) whether there was an upward trend of their export and if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the recent decision of the Commerce Minsitry to curtail the